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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0256  
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA 1250  
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 1095  
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 1256  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0515  
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 0880  
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 1308  
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 3679  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1079  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 1718  
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC//DHO-7//  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1465  
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC  
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK//DOOC/ECMO/CC/DAO/DOB/DOI//  
RUEPGBA/CDR USEUCOM INTEL VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ23-CH/ECJ5M//

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 000765

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AF/S FOR B. NEULING  
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR C. COURVILLE  
AFR/SA FOR E. LOKEN  
COMMERCE FOR BECKY ERKUL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/31/2011

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SUBJECT: INFORMATION MINISTER'S PASSING LEAVES NO VOID

REF: 05 HARARE 663

Classified By: Ambassador Christopher W. Dell under Section 1.4 b/d

¶1. (U) The state media on June 22 announced the June 21 death of Minister of Information and Publicity Tichaona Jokonya. A former Permanent Representative at the UN and Executive Director of the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority, Jokonya was 67. The minister had been treated in the United States for an undisclosed ailment last year before being placed on the sanctions list following his appointment. Jokonya was a first-time MP from Chikomba, a Mashonaland East ZANU-PF stronghold where he won his seat in March 2005 by a comfortable margin of 17,925 to 7,403. In a condolence message published on the front page of the state-controlled Sunday Mail, President Mugabe mourned the loss of one of the nation's "top diplomats, scholars, administrators and politicians."

¶2. (C) Comment: Jokonya's death literally and symbolically reinforces the message that ZANU-PF's older generation is leaving the scene and that Mugabe is even more isolated. Jokonya never exerted the same influence on policy or the state propaganda apparatus as did his notorious predecessor, Jonathan Moyo. The state media's message during his tenure became less focused and coherent, although still relentlessly anti-Western. There is no word on his ministerial replacement, but we would not rule out Mugabe appointing his press spokesperson, George Charamba to the minister's position as well. No word yet either on the date of a parliamentary by-election, which seems unlikely to be of great political significance given ZANU-PF's historical sway over the vacated seat.

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